

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, BR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: JUAN WALTE STORY

REF: BOUTON-ARENALES TELCON, JUNE 9

1. BELOW IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN SHOULD QUESTIONS BE RAISED ON SUBJECT.

Q. A SPANISH LANGUAGE WIRE SERVICE REPORT QUOTES DOCUMENTS
PREPARED BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRASILIA AS
STATING THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERS BRAZIL TO BE THE MOST
EFFECTIVE LATIN AMERICAN OPPONENT OF MORE ACTIVE ROLES
FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE
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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. CAN YOU CONFIRM
THAT REPORT?

A. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN FAVOR OF AN
ACTIVE ROLE FOR BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS' AND INTER-
AMERICAN-HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS IS WELL KNOWN. I AM
OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE BRAZILIAN

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE MATTER.

Q. THE SAME REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT BRAZIL INFLUENCED
URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY TO KEEP THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN

RIGHTS COMMISSION OUT. ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NO.

Q. THE SAME REPORT ALSO MENTIONS A "SLOW BUT HOPEFUL"
PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL. CAN YOU CONFIRM
THAT THAT IS THE US GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN BRAZIL.

A. IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE HAS BEEN
IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BRAZIL
AND OBVIOUSLY THAT IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE DOCUMENTS MENTIONED IN THE
WIRE SERVICE REPORT ARE ACTUALLY THOSE PREPARED IN
PREPARATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA?

A. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AND AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE I
WILL NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE AUTHENTICITY OF
DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALY RELEASED. VANCE

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